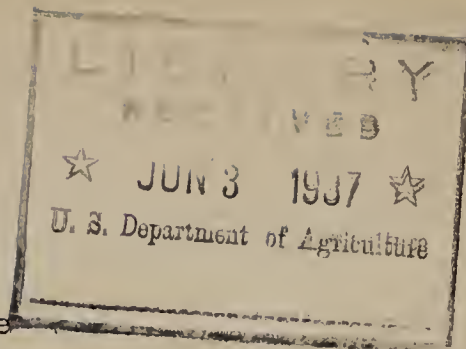


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United States Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Adjustment Administration

1938 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM - NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Procedure for Development and Questions for Discussion

As the first step in developing the 1938 Agricultural Conservation Program for the North Central Region, the board of directors of the county agricultural association and the members of the planning committee are being asked to consider the attached list of questions and to prepare a report for submission to the State office. This report is to be mailed to the State office not later than Saturday, June 26, 1937.

A State report will be prepared summarizing these county reports and will be forwarded to Washington not later than July 10. This State report will then be considered by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and "lined-up" with reports from other States and with the policy of the Federal administration. Before more than the very broad outline of the 1938 Program is finally decided upon, State meetings will be held at which the proposed outline will be discussed in relation to the State recommendations. Representative farmers from different parts of the State will be asked to attend this meeting. State committees will then meet with representatives of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration to formulate the major provisions of the 1938 Program.

Foreword

Farmers, working together in the development and administration of national farm programs during the last four years have proved this democratic method to be sound and beneficial both to agricultural welfare and national welfare. The meetings for discussion of plans for 1938 mark the fifth consecutive year in which farmers have worked together in shaping programs for the improvement of their farms and the protection of their incomes.

The objectives of the Agricultural Conservation Program are fundamental to agriculture. Encouragement of better land use in order to check soil erosion, improve productivity of the land, and maintain farm income is a sound foundation upon which to build agricultural prosperity. These fundamental objectives would not be changed by new legislation to supplement existing legislation in order to bring about greater economic stability for agriculture.

If farmers continue to keep these objectives in mind in shaping their plans for next year, I am confident that a sound and useful program for 1938 will be the result.

*H. A. Wallace*

Secretary.

## INSTRUCTIONS TO THE COUNTY

On the following pages questions are presented in such form that the answers may be readily summarized in the State report. However, it is not intended that the discussion in county groups will be confined entirely to these questions. While it is desired that all questions included here be answered, additional suggestions will be welcomed. The county group will prepare and forward two copies of this report to

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INDICATED PARTICIPATION IN 1937:--The entry for section (b) under Introductory Information, page 3, will be made in the county office on the basis of the best information available at the time such entry is made.

I. PRACTICE PAYMENTS:--Enter under section A that percentage figure which is favored by the majority of the group present. Enter after each item in the respective spaces under sections B to C, inclusive, the number of individuals favoring "Yes" and the number favoring "No". Describe additional practice proposed in the blank lines under (3).

II. BASES:--Enter after each item in the respective spaces the number of individuals in the group who consider the several proposals under subsections (1) to (4), inclusive, as major, secondary, and minor. Describe in the blank lines under (4) other proposals made.

III. DIVERSION AND NONDIVERSION FARMS:--Enter after each item in the respective spaces, the number of individuals favoring "Yes" and the number favoring "No". Describe in the blank lines under (4) other proposals made.

IV. SUBMARGINAL AREAS:--Enter in each of the respective spaces, the number of individuals favoring "Yes" and the number favoring "No".

V. ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS:--Enter in each of the respective spaces under sections A, B, and C, the number of individuals favoring "Yes" and the number favoring "No". In Section A, subsections (1), (b), and (2), (b) show the percentage of payment to the landlord and to the tenant preferred by those who favor a fixed percentage. Under subsections (1), (c), and (2), (c) describe other proposals. Under sections C, D, and E space is allowed for answers to the respective questions given and suggestions made. At the bottom of page 11 enter in the space provided the total number of people participating in the discussion.

Certain supplementary questions are included in the background material to stimulate thought and discussion pertaining to the questions for which answers are to be reported. It will not be necessary for the county group to report answers to supplementary questions. Reports submitted to the State office will be signed by the chairman of the county agricultural conservation committee and the chairman of the county program planning committee.



INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

The data listed on pages 3 and 5 are provided for use of the farmers who will answer the questions which follow. Regional data are based on a report compiled as of April 15, 1937, and are subject to some revision.

- a. Percent of all farms participating in the 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program  
Region 54 % State \_\_\_\_\_ % County \_\_\_\_\_ %
- b. Percent of all farms in the county which will participate in 1937 as indicated by the "Intention Form" executed in the county  
County \_\_\_\_\_ %
- c. Percent of total farm acres on farms participating in the 1936 Program  
State \_\_\_\_\_ % County \_\_\_\_\_ %
- d. Percent of total crop acres on farms participating in the 1936 Program  
Region 65 % State \_\_\_\_\_ % County \_\_\_\_\_ %
- e. Percent of total soil-depleting base acres on farms participating in the 1936 Program  
Region 69 % State \_\_\_\_\_ % County \_\_\_\_\_ %
- f. Percent acres diverted are of soil-depleting bases on farms participating in the 1936 Program  
Region 15 % State \_\_\_\_\_ % County \_\_\_\_\_ %
- g. Percent practice payments were of soil-building allowance on farms participating in the 1936 Program  
Region 61 % State \_\_\_\_\_ % County \_\_\_\_\_ %
- h. Percentage practice payments were of total payments on farms participating in the 1936 Program.  
Region 15 % State \_\_\_\_\_ % County \_\_\_\_\_ %

I. PRACTICE PAYMENTS

A. WHAT PROPORTION OF ALL PAYMENTS SHOULD BE MADE FOR SOIL-BUILDING PRACTICES IN THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION? \_\_\_\_\_%

B. DO PRACTICE PAYMENTS AS MADE UNDER THE PRESENT PROGRAM ADEQUATELY STIMULATE:

(1) An increase in practices normally followed? Yes (\_\_\_\_\_) No (\_\_\_\_\_)

(2) Additional practices not normally followed? Yes (\_\_\_\_\_) No (\_\_\_\_\_)

C. TO BEST PROMOTE SOIL CONSERVATION, SHOULD PAYMENTS BE MADE:

(1) Only for practices in addition to those normally followed? Yes (\_\_\_\_\_) No (\_\_\_\_\_)

If so, how will the extent of the additional practices be determined? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(2) Only for practices performed under conditions that will insure better than average results? Yes (\_\_\_\_\_) No (\_\_\_\_\_)

(3) On additional practices not included in the 1937 Program? Yes (\_\_\_\_\_) No (\_\_\_\_\_)

Describe such practices. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Background:--In the North Central Region as a whole, more or less diversion from soil-depleting to soil-conserving crops is essential before adequate soil conservation can be secured. The preliminary summary of the results of the county planning project for the North Central Region, for example, indicates a recommended goal of 109,185,000 acres of soil-depleting crops. The achievement of this goal would constitute a diversion in the North Central Region of about 16 percent from the total soil-depleting base of approximately 130,000,000 acres established for 1937. However, the matter of practices upon which payments will be made and the extent of such payments are of real importance and should be given careful consideration in answering question "A".

Following are some points which should be considered before answering the questions above: Have practice payments, as made under the 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program, been effective in forwarding soil conservation? Should higher standards be specified for practices on which payments are made? Should payments be denied on practices when a satisfactory standard is not maintained? Should payment be made on seedings which fail? Would the Program in general in the North Central Region be improved by the elimination of certain practices now eligible for payment? Should performance of certain practices be required but not paid for, such as inoculation of legumes, spreading of barnyard manure, etc?

Distribution of Practices and Payments under the 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program follows:

<u>Practice</u>		<u>Acreage or Extent</u>	<u>1936 Payments</u>
(1) New Seedings of Legumes	(Region (State (County	17,612,000 _____ _____	\$24,315,000 _____ _____
(2) New Seedings of Perennial Grasses	(Region (State (County	441,000 _____ _____	471,000 _____ _____
(3) Legumes for Green Manure	(Region (State (County	463,000 _____ _____	694,000 _____ _____
(4) Green Manure Crop Follow- ing Truck Crop	(Region (State (County	12,000 _____ _____	12,000 _____ _____
(5) Winter Cover Crops in Orchards and Vineyards	(Region (State (County	11,000 _____ _____	11,000 _____ _____
(6) Limestone and Other Calcareous Materials	(Region (State (County	1,040,000 _____ _____	2,456,000 _____ _____
(7) Phosphates	(Region (State (County	38,000 _____ _____	66,000 _____ _____
(8) Planting of Trees	(Region (State (County	5,000 _____ _____	26,000 _____ _____
(9) Strip Fallow	(Region (State (County	222,000 _____ _____	134,000 _____ _____
(10) Terracing	(Region (State (County	10,000 _____ _____	15,000 _____ _____



## II. BASES.

### A. WHAT RELATIVE WEIGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS IN ESTABLISHING BASES FOR INDIVIDUAL FARMS:

- |  | Major | Secondary | Minor |
|--|-------|-----------|-------|
| (1) The individual history of the farm?  | ( )   | ( )       | ( )   |
| (2) Proportion of total cropland in the county devoted to the crop or crops for which bases are being established? | ( )   | ( )       | ( )   |
| (3) Recommended systems of farming based on good land use and farm management principles?                          | ( )   | ( )       | ( )   |
| (4) Other factors?   | ( )   | ( )       | ( )   |
- Describe such factors: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Background:--Much of the success of the Program depends upon the correctness of the individual bases established. A number of methods which could be used, individually or in combination, in establishing bases on individual farms are listed under Section A, above. Varying emphasis has been placed on these methods in the different areas. Which should receive the greatest emphasis in the establishment of bases? Which will best promote soil conservation and the economic use of farm land? What method was used in your county in 1936? Did such method secure equity between all individuals in such manner as to best promote soil conservation and economic land use? What method was used in 1937? Was it an improvement over that used in 1936?

Did the method of establishing bases in your county tend to encourage certain groups of farmers to participate in the program more than others? For example, was there the same degree of participation for farms of different sizes? For farms on which different types of farming are followed? For farms of different soil types? Of different topography? If selective participation resulted, did it tend to accomplish the purposes of the Act?

The consideration of land-use goals and the principles upon which they rest may well provide a guide for the distribution of bases among individual farms in any county. They represent the objectives toward which the farmers in the county should move and toward which the program should be directed, with an understanding that actual acreages in any particular year will necessarily depend upon weather and crop conditions in the current or preceding year, the amount of money available for payments under an agricultural conservation program, and economic conditions with respect to each of the more important commodities normally grown on any particular farm. Subquestion (3) of Section A, above, is designed to obtain opinion as to what weight should be given county planning goals or recommended systems of farming in establishing bases for use in 1938.





IV. SUBMARGINAL AREAS

- A. SHOULD A GENERAL LAND USE PROGRAM BE DEVELOPED BY THE SEVERAL GOVERNMENTAL AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES TO DISPLACE EVENTUALLY THE AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM IN AREAS UNSUITED TO CONTINUING PRODUCTION OF PLANTED CROPS?

Yes (\_\_\_\_\_) No (\_\_\_\_\_)

- B. SHOULD THE AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION IN 1938 CEASE TO MAKE GRANTS FOR AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION ON LAND AREAS UNSUITED TO CONTINUING PRODUCTION OF PLANTED CROPS?

Yes (\_\_\_\_\_) No (\_\_\_\_\_)

Background: Land areas may be deemed unsuited to the continued production of planted crops because of undesirable soil characteristics, climate, uneconomic agricultural production, excessive local governmental costs, or for other reasons. The administrative problem relative to such land is important, and though considerable time may be required to prepare a satisfactory solution to the problem, the opinion of farmers from all areas relative to this question is desired.

By making payments in accordance with present provisions, the agricultural conservation program may tend to encourage uneconomical farming operations on land suited neither to continuous agricultural production, nor to the maintenance of farm families at an American standard of living. Is this true in your county and State? The continued use of such land for agricultural production might be discouraged by changing the definition of cropland and ceasing to make grants on farms in submarginal land areas.

Perhaps a program should be built for these areas which would encourage a shift in land uses, not primarily for the sake of soil conservation, but to get such areas into uses for which they are better suited. Such measures might include reforestation, the development of grazing areas, recreational areas, or game preserves. This might involve the moving of farm families to areas better suited to farming or into other occupations.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS.

A. SHOULD THE DIVISION BETWEEN THE LANDLORD AND TENANT BE DETERMINED ON

(1) Diversion Payments

- (a) By the division of the major soil-depleting crop? Yes (\_\_\_\_) No (\_\_\_\_)
- (b) By a fixed percentage? Yes (\_\_\_\_) No (\_\_\_\_)  
If so, what percentage to: Landlord\_\_\_\_%; Tenant\_\_\_\_%
- (c) By some other method? Yes (\_\_\_\_) No (\_\_\_\_)  
Describe alternative method: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(2) Soil-Building Payments

- (a) By the division of the major soil-depleting crop? Yes (\_\_\_\_) No (\_\_\_\_)
- (b) By a fixed percentage? Yes (\_\_\_\_) No (\_\_\_\_)  
If so, what percentage to: Landlord\_\_\_\_%; Tenant\_\_\_\_%
- (c) By some other method? Yes (\_\_\_\_) No (\_\_\_\_)  
Describe alternative method: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Background:--For the purpose of this question, consider the term "diversion payments" as used under subsection (1), above, to include both the \$6.00 and the \$3.00 payment. Under the 1937 Program, the division of both the diversion and the soil-building payments between the landlord and tenant is made on the basis of the division of the major soil-depleting crop. A fifty-fifty division of payments for all farms has been suggested. Should soil-building payments be divided on the same basis as diversion payments? Should cash tenants receive all of the payments earned on the farms they operate?

B. WILL THE RESULTS SECURED BY THE USE OF THE DECLARATION-OF-INTENTIONS FORM JUSTIFY ITS USE? Yes (\_\_\_\_) No (\_\_\_\_)

Background:--The declaration-of-intentions form was used for the first time in 1937 the better to acquaint the farmer with the application of the Program to his farm and to help him plan the operation of his farm. The expense involved in the execution of this form has been considerable. Has the value of the form justified the added time required of the community committeemen? In addition, it may be well to consider what other improvements can be made in the educational procedure to the end of accomplishing a greater degree of intentional performance.



- C. IS THE PRESENT DEFINITION OF THE FARM SATISFACTORY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING PERFORMANCE? Yes ( ) No ( )

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Background:--This question involves the problem of whether the owner or tenant should be made responsible for performance on the land operated by the share-tenant. Should "field rented" tracts be classified so that the owner or the tenant will be responsible for performance on such tract? Should performance requirements be restricted to a single farm or to a combination of all farms in the county on which the applicant receives all or a share of the crops?

- D. WHAT REASONS ARE GIVEN BY FARMERS WHO DO NOT INTEND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 1937 PROGRAM? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Background:--In some areas less participation in the program is expected in 1937 than was had in 1936. If increasingly large numbers of farmers fail to participate in the program, it will become less effective. What changes may be made in keeping with the principles of the program to enable these farmers to participate? Do the provisions of the program provide opportunity for some to participate, while excluding from participation others who could contribute as fully to soil conservation as those now participating? Is the program better suited to participation on the part of owner-operators than to participation on the part of tenants?



E. WHAT SIGNIFICANT POINTS IN THE 1937 PROGRAM ARE MOST DIFFICULT FOR FARMERS TO UNDERSTAND? \_\_\_\_\_

Background: Since the advent of the agricultural adjustment programs, complaints have been made regarding the complexity of these programs. In considering this problem, it should be borne in mind that an adequate and flexible program will not be simple, nor is a simple program likely to prove flexible and adequate. In making suggestions for improvement in this connection, farmers should consider whether or not they are willing to sacrifice the advantages of a given feature before recommending its discontinuance for the sake of simplicity. Perhaps the agricultural conservation program has included provisions which are ineffective because of the difficulty of making them clear to farmers or because such provisions lead to procedure so complex as to be ineffective in an action program. The above questions give an opportunity to point out such provisions and to suggest their elimination or modification to the end that the 1938 program may be better understood and more effective.

THE ABOVE QUESTIONS WERE CONSIDERED AND ANSWERS PREPARED IN  
\_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY ON \_\_\_\_\_, AND THE ABOVE IS A  
(Date)  
SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS. \_\_\_\_\_ PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN THE  
(Number)  
DISCUSSION.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman, County Agr. Cons. Com.

Chairman, County Production  
Planning Committee

